Organise! friends of the International Workers' Association

Southern Bulletin

CLASS WAR

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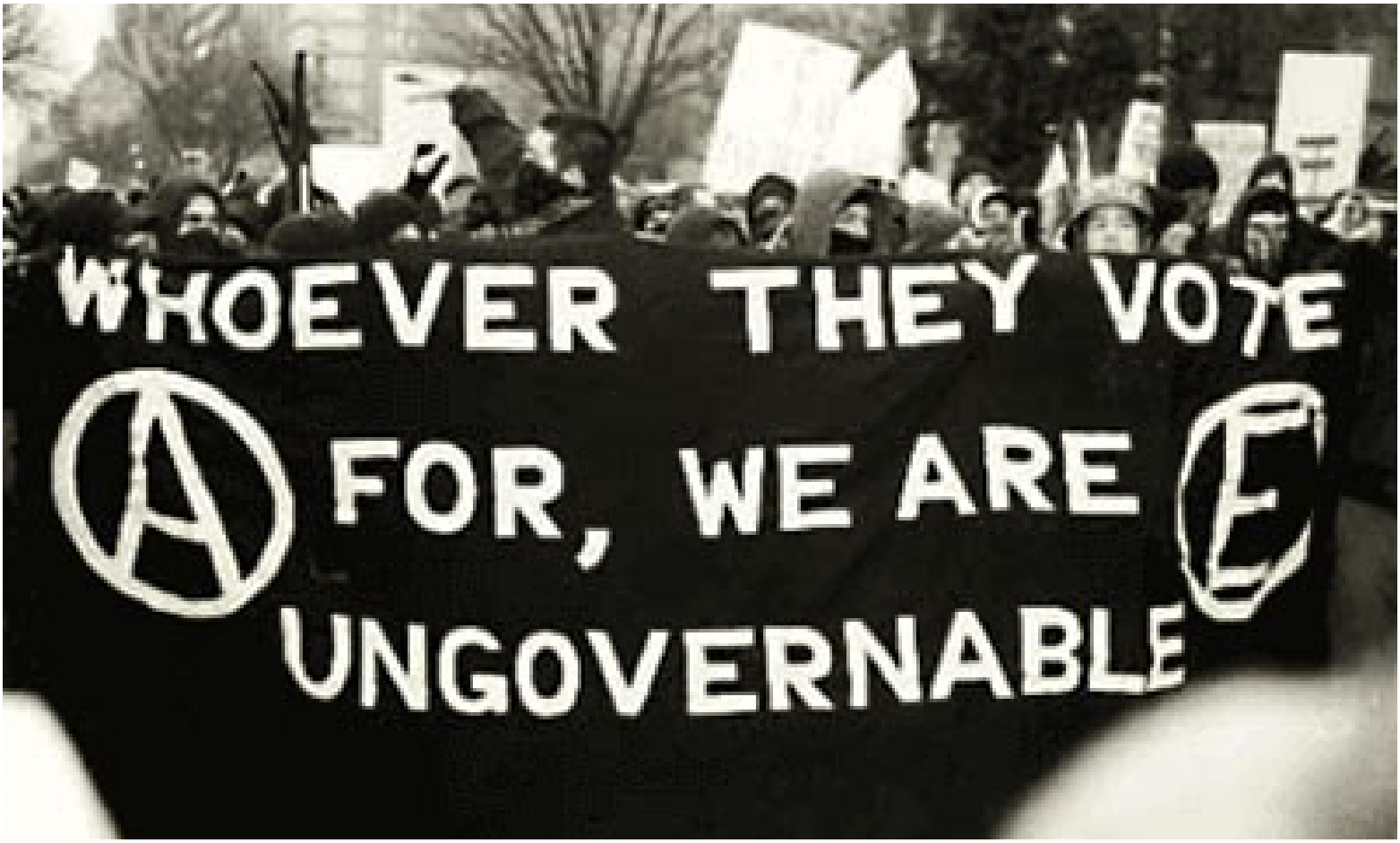
THERE'S NO GOVERNMENT LIKE



NO GOVERNMENT

It would seem from the low voter turnout in last November's general election that a degree of apathy has set in among the general population in Ireland. While the far right failed to receive the level of votes they were hoping for, the low turnout seems to have worked in the favour of the establishment parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. Essentially, nothing has changed, and we are facing into five more years of the same old shit.

Understandably, Centre Left parties Social Democrats and Labour were uneasy about going into coalition with FF/FG, after the Greens were hit hard in GE25. This has led to a coalition between FF, FG, and a number of independents. Verona Murphy, known for her right-wing viewpoints was then elected to Ceann Comhairle on the new Dail. The new Dail convened on the 22nd January, and was suspended a total of 4 times due to rows breaking out over speaking time. The crux of the row being independent TDs supporting the current government attempting to use opposition speaking time during Dail sessions. This is an obvious attempt by a Right-leaning government to take time from a largely Left-leaning opposition.

It isn't really a surprise that so many are turned off by electoral politics but disillusion somehow needs to be turned into action.

INSIDE: Israeli ceasefire - persecution continues; Israeli Assembly gone, Occupied Territories Bill out?, IHRA in; Trump inauguration; HSE update; Say No groups...

WELCOME TO CLASS WAR!

Welcome to the latest edition of Class War, the anarcho-syndicalist bulletin from members of Organise! in the Republic of Ireland.

The name of our bulleting is inspired by Camillo Berneri's newspaper *Guerre de Classe* which was edited by him in Italy and then, in exile, in Spain until his assassination on May 5th 1937. Berneri along with Francesco Barbieri were taken out of their apartment by a dozen plainclothes men with red armbands and police. The corpses of the two Italian anarchists were found riddled with bullets - assassinated by Stalinist counter-revolutionaries during the Spanish Civil War.

Our focus is unashamedly working class. We would refute however that there is anything 'reductionist' about asserting this. We see class as the fundamental cleavage in society and the working class, as a whole, as the group which has a real interest in the destruction of capitalist exploitation and oppression and the replacement of states, nations and corporations with a new world based on equality, freedom and libertarian communism.

We do not hold with stereotypical notions of a white, male industrial working class. We see capitalism as a racialised, and (while patriarchy is older than capitalism) patriarchal system. Nor do we idealise the working class, we are kept in ignorance and fed a diet of misinformation in order to keep us ignorant, brutalised and divided. We are deliberately distracted from our common interests and conned into the mistaken belief that we have interests in common with our 'native' bosses and politicians.

For us the working class consists in the vast majority of humanity and in this majority lies the hope for a social revolution that can save us all from the barbarism and destruction of capitalist greed and war.

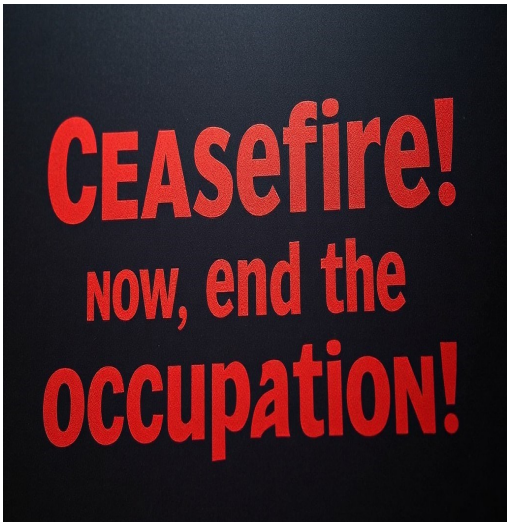
ISRAELI EMBASSY PUSHED OUT

IRISH GOVT. SHOWS IT'S OTHER FACE

Following the announcement that they were closing their Embassy in Dublin the Israeli flag came down on December 19th. This was a victory for the mass movement across Ireland that rose up to oppose genocide in Gaza.

In the run up to the election, Tánaiste Michael Martin indicated that special privilege would be given before disbanding the Dail in order to pass the Occupied Territories Bill. Naturally, this of course never transpired, and the passing of the Bill by the new government was the carrot dangled in front of the voting public. It has now been confirmed that the Bill will not be passed in its current state, and will need to be amended. According to independent news agency *The Ditch*, this roll back on the enactment of the Bill was due to the threat of "consequences" from the USA if the legislation were to be passed as it stands. It would seem impressing US/EU big business is the order of the day for the government.

In another charm offensive by Martin's new government, it appears Ireland will be the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This definition has been repeatedly criticised for blurring the line between antisemitism and criticism of the state of Israel.



While the Irish state acknowledged the genocide in Gaza by supporting a legal case against the state of Israel in the International Court of Justice, the adoption of this definition effectively silences any opposition to Zionism. While Zionism claims links to Judaism, it is in fact an ethnocultural nationalist movement, which many Jews worldwide reject.

That the move to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism comes in the wake of Israel's decision to close its Irish embassy is no accident. This decision was allegedly made due to Ireland's unwavering support for the people of Palestine. This unwavering support for the victims of colonial oppression also resulted in the wider Zionist community attempting to slander Irish people online with the label "Paddystinians." However, the attack backfired as it was embraced and worn as a badge of pride.

ISRAEL AGREES CEASFIRE PERSECUATION CONTINUES

Since the last issue of *Class War* out last November, Israel finally agreed to the terms of a ceasefire in Gaza. However, it would appear the Israeli's have no intention of stopping their persecution of the Palestinian people. While their attentions have largely turned to the West Bank after the ceasefire began, mere days after attacks were due to end in Gaza, a young child in Rafah was killed by Israeli sniper fire.

Unionised dockworkers in Sweden have recently announced that they will be joining the global boycott movement, and unions in other countries have already made this step.

And while ICTU have made many statements in support of the people of Palestine, we in Organise! IWA feel there is more that could be done by the wider Irish trade union movement. Did Irish retail workers not refuse to handle South African products in the 1980s? Why can the same steps not be taken now when it comes to Israeli goods? And as we all know, Shannon Airport continues to be used for the transport of munitions to Israel…

TRUMP INAUGARATION

C*NTS OF A FEATHER...

In November, Organise! IWA issued a statement regarding Conor McGregor's guilty verdict for sexually assaulting Nikita Hand. The outcome of this case has seen McGregor hit where it hurts, with many retailers refusing to sell his Forged Irish Stout. Proximo Spirits, who own Proper No 12, have also ceased to use the former MMA fighter's name or likeness in the promotion of their product.

And trouble continues to follow Conor McGregor, as it has emerged that he will now face another civil lawsuit. This next case follows the alleged sexual assault of a woman at a basketball game in the United States back in 2023.

The former fighter was also photographed at a pre-inauguration rally for incoming US president Donald Trump. The photo, captioned "we are so back" on McGregor's X account, shows him posing next to Reform UK leader Nigel Farage.

Which brings on to Trump's inauguration. Having recently decided to completely roll back on fact checking on Meta's platforms, Mark Zuckerberg joined other tech billionaires like Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, alongside celebrities like Joe Rogan, Dana White and Jon Voight to witness Trump being sworn in. During the same ceremony which saw Elon Musk openly Nazi saluting those present, Trump

claimed to have been "saved by God" following his recent assassination attempt.

Trump later proceeded to announce a number of executive orders, obviously keen to bring in as many changes as he could while the American public were too distracted by the days events to notice.

Among these, he promised his government would only recognise two genders. Other plans include scrapping the Green New Deal, significantly increasing drilling for oil and gas, and putting stricter controls in place to curb immigration. This latter move has already seen a wider roll-out of immigration raids across the States.

Build A Working Class Alternative!

Before it's too late...

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland affiliated to the International Worker's Association as a 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked over by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, and sick of a greedy bosses and landlords getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy, racism and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

In the South of Ireland we currently have members and contacts in Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Letterkenny, Monaghan, and elsewhere and we are actively building our membership. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com

email: OrganiseASyndIreland@gmail.com

HSE UPDATE - BALLOT FOR STRIKE ACTION

In the last issue, we reported on the HSE's new Pay and Numbers strategy. As of the time of writing, the HSE continue their refusal to attend the Labour Court to reach a resolution to the issues caused by this strategy.

A key demand of 2019's nurse's strike was safe staffing levels - the staff shortages caused by the Pay and Numbers strategy mean they are now in breach of their agreement. Members working in the healthcare sector, including craft workers, have been balloted by their respective trade unions, though it remains to be seen what type of industrial action will take place.

AND FINALLY...

'Says No' groups around the country recently convened a meeting. Included on the agenda was a plan to unite all 'Says No' groups, the setting up of "gofundme" pages, 'addressing child grooming,' and planning an Irexit campaign.

There was also discussion of using the Magna Carta to assert their rights against the "tyrannical government."

And just for laughs: having tried and failed to burn the building down last July, the Coolock Says No group are now fixated on the alleged presence of asbestos in the building, and have gone so far as to erect hazard warnings around the site.